

## Applicant Details

First Name **Christian**  
 Last Name **Sanchez Leon**  
 Citizenship Status **U. S. Citizen**  
 Email Address [sanchezleon.c24@law.wlu.edu](mailto:sanchezleon.c24@law.wlu.edu)  
 Address

**Address**  
**Street**  
**402 S Main Street, Apt 4**  
**City**  
**Lexington**  
**State/Territory**  
**Virginia**  
**Zip**  
**24450**  
**Country**  
**United States**

Contact Phone Number **7869010920**

## Applicant Education

BA/BS From **Florida International University**  
 Date of BA/BS **April 2020**  
 JD/LLB From **Washington and Lee University School of Law**  
<http://www.law.wlu.edu>  
 Date of JD/LLB **April 28, 2024**  
 Class Rank **5%**  
 Law Review/Journal **Yes**  
 Journal(s) **Washington and Lee Law Review**  
 Moot Court Experience **Yes**  
 Moot Court Name(s) **John W. Davis Appellate Advocacy Competition**

## Bar Admission

## Prior Judicial Experience

Judicial Internships/ Externships      **Yes**  
Post-graduate Judicial Law Clerk      **No**

### **Specialized Work Experience**

### **Professional Organization**

Organizations      **Just the Beginning Organization**

### **Recommenders**

Baluarte, David  
BaluarteD@wlu.edu  
Belmont, Elizabeth  
belmontb@wlu.edu  
Trammell, Alan  
atrammell@wlu.edu

**This applicant has certified that all data entered in this profile and any application documents are true and correct.**

Christian Sanchez Leon  
402 South Main Street, Apt. 4  
Lexington, Virginia 24450  
sanchezleon.c24@law.wlu.edu  
(786) 901-0920

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Maria Araujo Kahn  
United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit  
Connecticut Financial Center  
157 Church Street, 18th Floor  
New Haven, CT 06510-2100

Dear Judge Kahn:

I am a third-year law student at Washington and Lee University School of Law and I am writing to apply for a clerkship in your chambers in the 2024 term, but I remain open to any other term. I grew up as the son of Cuban parents in the Canary Islands, Spain and moved to the United States in 2015, when I was seventeen. I do not take for granted the opportunities I have had in this country, which allowed me to go to high school and college while working to support my family and gain citizenship. My background has taught me the importance of hard work and respect for mentors who can help and guide me to better myself in various avenues of my life, both personal and professional.

Through my coursework in classes such as Federal Jurisdiction and Evidence, I developed an interest in the inner workings of federal chambers. This motivated my Law Review Note, which will be published in September and explores the distinctive role of the federal judiciary when jurisdiction stripping statutes limit the adjudication of immigration cases. Through my work in these areas of the law, I developed critical legal research and writing skills that have prepared me to analyze complex legal issues and contribute meaningfully to your chambers. I consider that working for the Second Circuit would be a unique opportunity to continue exploring these interests and develop the necessary skills to have a successful appellate practice.

Please find as part of this application a copy of my resume, most recent law school transcript, and writing sample. The writing sample is a draft of a memo that I wrote for District Judge Darrin P. Gayles in advance of a hearing for a motion to dismiss, and is included with his permission. Additionally, please find with this application letters of recommendation from Professors Alan Trammell, Elizabeth Belmont, and David Baluarte.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at the above address, email, and telephone number.

Respectfully,



Christian Sanchez Leon

## Christian Sanchez Leon

sanchezleon.c24@law.wlu.edu • 402 South Main St., Apt. 4, Lexington, Virginia 24450 • (786) 901-0920

### Education

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#### **Washington and Lee University School of Law, Lexington, VA**

Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2024

Cumulative GPA: 3.837 (Top 5%)

Journal: *Washington and Lee Law Review*, Senior Articles Editor

Publication: *Do All Parents Have Equal Parental Rights? The Effects of Insulating Immigration Courts From Judicial Review on America's New Generation of Families*, 81 WASH. & LEE L. REV. (forthcoming 2023)

Activities: Semi-finalist, John W. Davis Appellate Advocacy Competition  
Latin American Law Students Association / First Generation Student Union, Mentor

#### **Florida International University, Miami, FL**

Bachelor of Science, *summa cum laude*, Criminal Justice, April 2020

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa; Deans List (multiple semesters); Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholarship

Activities: Pre-Law Advising and Training Office, Advisory Board  
Criminal Justice National Honor Society, Vice-President

### Experience

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#### **Delaware Court of Chancery, Wilmington, DE**

*Full-Time Judicial Extern for the Honorable Lori W. Will*, Anticipated Dates: August 2023 – December 2023

#### **Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, Miami, FL**

*Summer Associate*, May 2023 – July 2023

- Researched and drafted memoranda on procedural and substantive issues including offers of settlement, the applicability of federal regulations to ships at U.S. ports, and the limit of the economic loss rule
- Participated in individual representation of pro-bono client in eviction case, which entailed meetings with client and creation of materials in preparation for hearing

#### **U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami, FL**

*Judicial Intern for the Honorable Darrin P. Gayles*, May 2022 – August 2022

- Wrote bench memoranda and drafted judicial orders and decisions
- Observed court proceedings, oral arguments, settlement conferences, and motion hearings
- Researched and analyzed pending motions in civil and criminal matters

#### **Immigrant Resource Center of Miami, Miami, FL**

*Class Instructor*, August 2019 – May 2021

- Prepared immigrant student population for citizenship interview by providing classes in the English Language, U.S. history, government, and civics
- Participated in a 5-professor group to organize classes, student interviews, and course materials

#### **Santiago A Alpizar PA Law Firm, Miami, FL**

*Law Intern*, May 2019 – August 2021

- Conducted weekly legal research and sent updates of new cases on political asylum issues
- Completed immigration forms and provided full-time availability to respond to clients' inquiries
- Accompanied clients to USCIS interviews and served as Spanish-English interpreter

#### **Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida International University, Miami, FL**

*Research Assistant*, May 2018 – May 2019

- Performed comprehensive literature review from federal agencies in human trafficking
- Compiled and summarized key data from Department of Justice cases involving human trafficking to define characteristics and patterns of perpetrators and identify potential preventive strategies

### Languages and Interests

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- Spanish (native/bilingual proficiency) / Latin American Boom literature, soccer, basketball, 5k running



Print Date: 05/19/2023

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Student: Christian Sanchez Leon

WASHINGTON AND LEE  
UNIVERSITY

Lexington, Virginia 24450-2116



SSN: XXX-XX-5215

Date of Birth: 05/12/XXXX

Entry Date: 08/30/2021

Academic Level: Law

## 2021-2022 Law Fall

08/30/2021 - 12/18/2021

Course	Course Title	Grade	Credit Att	Credit Earn	Grade Pts	Repeat
LAW 109	CIVIL PROCEDURE	A	4.00	4.00	16.00	
LAW 140	CONTRACTS	A-	4.00	4.00	14.68	
LAW 163	LEGAL RESEARCH	A	0.50	0.50	2.00	
LAW 165	LEGAL WRITING I	A-	2.00	2.00	7.34	
LAW 190	TORTS	A	4.00	4.00	16.00	

Term GPA: 3.863

Totals:

14.50

14.50

56.02

Cumulative GPA: 3.863

Totals:

14.50

14.50

56.02

## 2021-2022 Law Spring

01/10/2022 - 04/29/2022

Course	Course Title	Grade	Credit Att	Credit Earn	Grade Pts	Repeat
LAW 130	CONSTITUTIONAL LAW	B+	4.00	4.00	13.32	
LAW 150	CRIMINAL LAW	A-	3.00	3.00	11.01	
LAW 163	LEGAL RESEARCH	A	0.50	0.50	2.00	
LAW 166	LEGAL WRITING II	A-	2.00	2.00	7.34	
LAW 179	PROPERTY	A	4.00	4.00	16.00	
LAW 195	TRANSNATIONAL LAW	A-	3.00	3.00	11.01	

Term GPA: 3.677

Totals:

16.50

16.50

60.68

Cumulative GPA: 3.764

Totals:

31.00

31.00

116.70

## 2022-2023 Law Fall

08/29/2022 - 12/19/2022

Course	Course Title	Grade	Credit Att	Credit Earn	Grade Pts	Repeat
LAW 685	Evidence	A	3.00	3.00	12.00	
LAW 700	Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure	A	3.00	3.00	12.00	
LAW 708	Financial Literacy For Lawyers	A	1.00	1.00	4.00	
LAW 829	Civil Litigation Practicum	A-	5.00	5.00	18.35	
LAW 911	Law Review: 2L	CR	2.00	2.00	0.00	

Term GPA: 3.862

Totals:

14.00

14.00

46.35

Cumulative GPA: 3.791

Totals:

45.00

45.00

163.05



Print Date: 05/19/2023

Page: 2 of 2

Student: Christian Sanchez Leon

WASHINGTON AND LEE  
UNIVERSITY

Lexington, Virginia 24450-2116



## 2022-2023 Law Spring

01/09/2023 - 04/28/2023

Course	Course Title	Grade	Credit Att	Credit Earn	Grade Pts	Repeat
LAW 690	Professional Responsibility	A	3.00	3.00	12.00	
LAW 731	Immigration Law	A	3.00	3.00	12.00	
LAW 748	Core Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) Concepts	A	3.00	3.00	12.00	
LAW 831	Refugee Protection Practicum	A	3.00	3.00	12.00	
LAW 911	Law Review: 2L	CR	2.00	2.00	0.00	
Term GPA: 4.000			Totals:	14.00	14.00	48.00
Cumulative GPA: 3.837			Totals:	59.00	59.00	211.05

## 2023-2024 Law Fall

08/28/2023 - 12/18/2023

Course	Course Title	Grade	Credit Att	Credit Earn	Grade Pts	Repeat
LAW 707L	Skills Immersion: Litigation		2.00	0.00	0.00	
LAW 933	Working In Law Full-Time Externship		2.00	0.00	0.00	
LAW 933FP	Working In Law Full-Time: Field Placement		10.00	0.00	0.00	
Term GPA: 0.000			Totals:	14.00	0.00	0.00
Cumulative GPA: 3.837			Totals:	59.00	59.00	211.05

Law Totals	Credit Att	Credit Earn	Cumulative GPA
Washington & Lee:	59.00	59.00	3.837
External:	0.00	0.00	
Overall:	59.00	59.00	3.837

Program: Law

End of Official Transcript



## WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPT KEY

Founded in 1749 as Augusta Academy, the University has been named, successively, Liberty Hall (1776), Liberty Hall Academy (1782), Washington Academy (1796), Washington College (1813), and The Washington and Lee University (1871). W&L has enjoyed continual accreditation by or membership in the following since the indicated year: The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1895); the Association of American Law Schools (1920); the American Bar Association Council on Legal Education (1923); the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (1927); the American Chemical Society (1941); the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (1948), and Teacher Education Accreditation Council (2012).

The **basic unit of credit** for the College, the Williams School of Commerce, Economics and Politics, and the School of Law is equivalent to a semester hour.

The **undergraduate calendar** consists of three terms. From 1970-2009: 12 weeks, 12 weeks, and 6 weeks of instructional time, plus exams, from September to June. From 2009 to present: 12 weeks, 12 weeks, and 4 weeks, September to May.

The **law school calendar** consists of two 14-week semesters beginning in August and ending in May.

**Official transcripts**, printed on blue and white safety paper and bearing the University seal and the University Registrar's signature, are sent directly to individuals, schools or organizations upon the written request of the student or alumnus/a. Those issued directly to the individual involved are stamped "Issued to Student" in red ink. **In accordance with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the information in this transcript is released on the condition that you permit no third-party access to it without the written consent from the individual whose record it is. If you cannot comply, please return this record.**

Undergraduate

**Degrees awarded:** Bachelor of Arts in the College (BA); Bachelor of Arts in the Williams School of Commerce, Economics and Politics (BAC); Bachelor of Science (BS); Bachelor of Science with Special Attainments in Commerce (BSC); and Bachelor of Science with Special Attainments in Chemistry (BCH).

Grade	Points	Description
A+	4.00	4.33 prior to Fall 2009 Superior.
A	4.00	
A-	3.67	
B+	3.33	Good.
B	3.00	
B-	2.67	
C+	2.33	Fair.
C	2.00	
C-	1.67	
D+	1.33	Marginal.
D	1.00	
D-	0.67	
E	0.00	Conditional failure. Assigned when the student's class average is passing and the final examination grade is F. Equivalent to F in all calculations
F	0.00	Unconditional failure.

Grades not used in calculations:

I	-	Incomplete. Work of the course not completed or final examination deferred for causes beyond the reasonable control of the student.
P	-	Pass. Completion of course taken Pass/Fail with grade of D- or higher.
S, U	-	Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.
WIP	-	Work-in-Progress.
W, WP, WF	-	Withdrew, Withdrew Passing, Withdrew Failing. Indicate the student's work up to the time the course was dropped or the student withdrew.

Grade prefixes:

R	Indicates an undergraduate course subsequently repeated at W&L (e.g. RC-).
E	Indicates removal of conditional failure (e.g. ED = D). The grade is used in term and cumulative calculations as defined above.

Ungraded credit:

Advanced Placement: includes Advanced Placement Program, International Baccalaureate and departmental advanced standing credits.

Transfer Credit: credit taken elsewhere while not a W&L student or during approved study off campus.

Cumulative Adjustments:

Partial degree credit: Through 2003, students with two or more entrance units in a language received reduced degree credit when enrolled in elementary sequences of that language.

**Dean's List:** Full-time students with a fall or winter term GPA of at least 3.400 and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.000 and no individual grade below C (2.0). Prior to Fall 1995, the term GPA standard was 3.000.

**Honor Roll:** Full-time students with a fall or winter term GPA of 3.750. Prior to Fall 1995, the term GPA standard was 3.500.

**University Scholars:** This special academic program (1985-2012) consisted of one required special seminar each in the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences; and a thesis. All courses and thesis work contributed fully to degree requirements.

Law

**Degrees awarded:** Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Laws (LLM)

Numerical	Letter	Grade*	Grade**	Points	Description
4.0	A			4.00	
	A-			3.67	
3.5				3.50	
	B+			3.33	
3.0	B			3.00	
	B-			2.67	
2.5				2.50	
	C+			2.33	
2.0	C			2.00	
	C-			1.67	
1.5				1.50	This grade eliminated after Class of 1990.
	D+			1.33	
1.0	D			1.00	A grade of D or higher in each required course is necessary for graduation.
	D-			0.67	Receipt of D- or F in a required course mandates repeating the course.
0.5				0.50	This grade eliminated after the Class of 1990.
0.0	F			0.00	Receipt of D- or F in a required course mandates repeating the course.

Grades not used in calculations:

-	WIP	-	Work-in-progress. Two-semester course.
I	I	-	Incomplete.
CR	CR	-	Credit-only activity.
P	P	-	Pass. Completion of graded course taken Pass/Not Passing with grade of 2.0 or C or higher. Completion of Pass/Not Passing course or Honors/Pass/Not Passing course with passing grade.
-	H	-	Honors. Top 20% in Honors/Pass/Not Passing courses.
F	-	-	Fail. Given for grade below 2.0 in graded course taken Pass/Fail.
-	NP	-	Not Passing. Given for grade below C in graded course taken Pass/Not Passing. Given for non-passing grade in Pass/Not Passing course or Honors/Pass/Not Passing course.

\* Numerical grades given in all courses until Spring 1997 and given in upperclass courses for the Classes of 1998 and 1999 during the 1997-98 academic year.

\*\* Letter grades given to the Class of 2000 beginning Fall 1997 and for all courses beginning Fall 1998.

Cumulative Adjustments:

Law transfer credits - Student's grade-point average is adjusted to reflect prior work at another institution after completing the first year of study at W&L.

**Course Numbering Update:** Effective Fall 2022, the Law course numbering scheme went from 100-400 level to 500-800 level.

Office of the University Registrar  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia 24450-2116  
phone: 540.458.8455  
email: registrar@wlu.edu

  
University Registrar

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
LEXINGTON, VA 24450

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Maria Kahn  
Connecticut Financial Center  
157 Church Street, 18th Floor  
New Haven, CT 06510-2100

Dear Judge Kahn:

I write to enthusiastically recommend Christian Sanchez-Leon for employment in your chambers. I met Christian early in his tenure at Washington and Lee University School of Law (W&L Law), where I previously served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and currently serve as a Clinical Professor of Law and faculty advisor to the Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA). During the 2022-23 academic year, I had the immense pleasure of advising Christian on his Note for the W&L Law Review and teaching him in both my Immigration Law survey course and my Refugee Protection Practicum. Based on my broad experience with Christian, I write this letter to highlight his tremendous intellect, enviable work ethic, and unparalleled abilities in legal research, writing, and analysis. I am certain that he will surpass your expectations for a law clerk.

I first met Christian in my capacity as Academic Dean and faculty advisor to LALSA, as he often sought my advice about course and career planning as well as selection of a Note topic. I was immediately impressed with his seriousness, as well as his deliberative and thoughtful nature. However, it was not until I returned to full-time teaching in spring 2023 and was reintroduced to Christian in the classroom setting that I truly understood his exceptional legal acumen and limitless potential.

Christian mastered the material covered in my Immigration Law course. Topics in Immigration Law vary from complex constitutional doctrine to heavy statutory analysis, often accompanied by policy discussions and examinations of socio-political norms. Christian surpassed my expectations on a weekly basis. He was consistently well-prepared for class, having read and thought deeply about the material, and he would often go further and explore the implications of complex rules of substantive law and procedure. Christian always presented his ideas in class with clarity and confidence, and he engaged in debate respectfully and with well-reasoned arguments. On exams, Christian consistently demonstrated his ability to extract sharp legal rules from challenging materials, and to apply those rules to a variety of scenarios that implicate noncitizens. On both the mid-term and final exam, he received perfect and near perfect scores, putting him comfortably in the top 5% of the class.

You can find an example of Christian's engagement with immigration law in his Note, which has been selected for publication by the W&L Law Review. In his Note, he explores the impact of jurisdiction stripping provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act on the integrity of mixed-status immigrant families, arguing for the consideration of family unity as a fundamental right to better protect families from arbitrary separation. In his Note, Christian showcases his knowledge of constitutional law, federal jurisdiction, statutory construction, as well as comprehensive research ability and crisp writing style. Christian also displays genuine compassion and a strong moral compass in his Note.

I also had the pleasure of teaching Christian asylum law and supervising work in my Refugee Protection Practicum. In that practicum, I assigned a refugee client to each of the students for limited representation and instructed them to help their clients file an asylum application with immigration court and prepare supporting materials for their client, including a declaration, an evidence index, and a legal brief. Christian received a challenging case that implicated a statutory bar to asylum and thus required that he perform substantial research and develop persuasive written arguments. Christian demonstrated diligence in the countless hours he spent on the phone with his client developing a detailed declaration, and substantial time completing country conditions and legal research to deliver a remarkably strong case.

As part of his work in the Refugee Protection Practicum, Christian also traveled with me to Mexico City over spring break to work with a refugee clinic at a Mexican university. Christian contributed a lot of research to a presentation I delivered to refugee clinic students and staff, and he engaged and asked thoughtful questions in the various meetings we held with refugee rights organizations throughout the city. When I gave the students Friday off for tourism, Christian chose to join me in delivering a workshop at a migrant shelter, where we made a joint presentation about U.S. asylum policies and gave individualized legal advice to asylum seekers. It became evident to me that Christian exemplifies professionalism in everything he does.

Finally, I want to highlight that I have had an extremely positive experience in both formal and informal advising meetings with Christian since his first year of law school. His intellect is accompanied by humility, his seriousness is peppered with humor, and his hard work is balanced with engagement with his classmates and his community. He is in many ways an ideal law student, and I am convinced that he will be an exceptional lawyer and make significant contributions to the profession. I have every confidence that he will be an asset to your chambers, and I recommend him to you without reservation.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions about Christian's candidacy.

Sincerely,

David C. Baluarte

David Baluarte - BaluarteD@wlu.edu



Clinical Professor of Law

David Baluarte - BaluarteD@wlu.edu

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
LEXINGTON, VA 24450

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Maria Kahn  
Connecticut Financial Center  
157 Church Street, 18th Floor  
New Haven, CT 06510-2100

Dear Judge Kahn:

I am on the faculty at Washington and Lee University School of Law, and am writing to you in very enthusiastic support of Christian Sanchez Leon, a rising third year law student at W&L who is seeking a clerkship with your court. I am a fan of W&L's students in general, but Mr. Sanchez Leon is one of the brightest, most engaged, hardest-working, and truly delightful students I have taught in recent memory.

Mr. Sanchez Leon was enrolled in my Fall 2022 Evidence class. At W&L we keep our class sizes small – my Evidence class had 43 students enrolled – so as faculty we tend to get to know our students well. Additionally, because Mr. Sanchez Leon was among a handful of students who availed himself of opportunities I offered my Evidence students to work with me directly and in small groups, I came to know Mr. Sanchez Leon better than many students enrolled in the course. He is also one of only six students who earned an A in the course, and of those six earned the second highest grade overall. As I explain more fully below, I am confident that Mr. Sanchez Leon will be an asset to any court that has the pleasure of working with him in its chambers.

I teach my Evidence course with an experiential bent. To that end, in addition to requiring extensive case readings, deep engagement with the rules, and a cumulative multiple-choice final exam, I employ a problem-based approach that demands significant in-class discussion. I also require the students to draft and argue two complex motions in limine involving issues arising under Federal Rules of Evidence 401-404 and 702-703. As a consequence, I am able to develop deeper insights into my Evidence students' strengths and weaknesses than is perhaps typical of a traditional law school classroom.

Mr. Sanchez Leon was one of the most active and incisive participants in what was a very smart and lively class overall. He was eager to wrestle with challenging issues. His in-class work and our out-of-class discussions demonstrated that he is an inquisitive, thorough, creative thinker, and that he is a close reader with very strong analytical skills. Mr. Sanchez Leon also performed extremely well in his motion in limine oral arguments. Mr. Sanchez has excellent communication skills in general, and during his oral arguments he was poised, self-assured, clear and creative. He also did an excellent job engaging with me (as the court) when I pressed him with difficult questions.

Mr. Sanchez Leon's written work on his two motions in limine was also very, very strong. Both of his motions made excellent use of the applicable authority, and both were cogent, creative, well-organized, well-argued, and thorough without sacrificing conciseness. Mr. Sanchez Leon's written work was among the very strongest in my entire class, a fact made even more impressive when one considers that English is Mr. Sanchez Leon's second language and because he did not move to the U.S. until later in his young life he did not have the benefit of an English language education in his early years. Based on my experience with his work, I am confident that Mr. Sanchez Leon's writing and analytical skills would serve you well in your chambers.

I am also confident that you will find Mr. Sanchez Leon to be a wonderful colleague. He is truly a delight to be around – he is bright, collaborative, kind-hearted, and hard-working. He was a pleasure to teach and work with, and I am confident that he will bring much to your chambers.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you regarding Mr. Sanchez Leon, and I encourage you to contact me with any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

C. Elizabeth Belmont  
Clinical Professor of Law

Elizabeth Belmont - [belmontb@wlu.edu](mailto:belmontb@wlu.edu)

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
LEXINGTON, VA 24450

June 12, 2023

The Honorable Maria Kahn  
Connecticut Financial Center  
157 Church Street, 18th Floor  
New Haven, CT 06510-2100

Dear Judge Kahn:

I understand that Christian Sanchez-Leon has applied for a clerkship in your chambers, and I write to recommend him to you with my utmost enthusiasm.

By way of context, I have had Christian as a student in two classes (Civil Procedure in the fall of 2021 and Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure in the fall of 2022), and I am thrilled that he has expressed interest in working for me as a research assistant. He is, in short, among the most outstanding students with whom I have had the privilege to work.

From the moment I met Christian when he was a prospective student at W&L, I immediately sensed both his seriousness of purpose and his disarming demeanor. Both in class and during our many office-hours conversations, Christian has demonstrated tremendous intellectual acumen and an ability to home in on the hardest part of a problem. He never seemed phased when I called on him in class. Instead, he always welcomed a challenge, working through thorny issues with patience, rigor, and creativity. I still chuckle about a few occasions during his first semester of law school when he came to my office, worried that he was not understanding the material. As we started to talk, I realized that Christian actually had mastered the material—the black-letter law, courts’ methodological moves, and the like. What was bothering him were doctrinal inconsistencies that he had sussed out or the bedeviling questions that continue to baffle scholars.

Christian’s clarity of thought shines through in the precise way that he formulates questions and thinks through novel problems. His writing also displays that same clarity and organization—all the more impressive, considering that English is his second language. In both classes that he has taken with me, Christian has easily earned an A, writing exam responses that ranked among the very best in the class.

Finally, Christian is a true delight to work with in class and beyond. In both Civil Procedure and Federal Jurisdiction, I often put students into small groups to work through short problem sets together. As they do so, I migrate around the classroom and eavesdrop on the conversations. Christian was always engaged and made vital contributions. Just as impressively, though, he listened carefully to his classmates and worked with them in a spirit of genuine collaboration. From conversations with students and other professors, I know that he commands enormous respect and admiration throughout the law school.

All of this is to say that Christian is wonderfully intelligent and a pleasure to work with. I am always delighted when he comes by my office to talk about class, writing projects, and career aspirations. I often find that I learn as much from him as he does from me, and I trust that you would have the same experience. In short, he has earned my highest recommendation, and I hope that you will contact me if I can tell you anything else that would be helpful. I never tire of singing his praises.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Trammell  
Associate Professor of Law

Alan Trammell - atrammell@wlu.edu